



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DIXON MAN SENTENCED TO MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR CHILD PORN

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Dixon, Mo., man who sexually abused two boys was sentenced in federal court this morning for possessing child pornography.

Robert Michael Ward, 33, of Dixon, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning to 10 years in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Ward** to spend the rest of his life under federal supervised release after his prison term, and ordered **Ward** to forfeit to the government two computers as well as CDs and floppy disks containing child pornography.

“This is the toughest sentence the court may impose under federal statutes,” Graves said. “The maximum prison sentence is appropriate in this case, which involves not only child pornography but sexual abuse against two young boys. Tragically, there is a direct connection between child pornography and sexual abuse, which makes it imperative to prosecute child predators to the full extent of the law.”

On Oct. 12, 2005, **Ward** pleaded guilty to being in possession of child pornography. More than 600 files containing child pornography were stored by **Ward** on the computers and disks, Graves said, many of which were obtained over the Internet. The images of child pornography included prepubescent boys in sexual poses, bondage of children and anal penetration of young boys. The files depicted children engaged in sexual conduct with themselves, other children, and/or adults, or posing in various states of undress.

Ward also admitted that he sexually abused two boys. Between July and October 2003, Graves said, **Ward** sexually abused a boy who was 13 years old and showed the boy pictures of men and children in sexual poses. **Ward** also sexually abused another boy who was approximately 11 years old at the time.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rose A. Barber. It was investigated by the Dixon, Mo., Police Department, the State Technical Assistance Team, and the Bureau of Immigration and Custom Enforcement.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html